

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-64 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 8-23, 28-43, and 48-64 stand rejected. By this paper, claims 1, 5, 6, 21, 25, 26, 41, 42, and 45-64 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 23, 24, 43, and 44 have been canceled. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims is patentably distinct from the cited prior art and in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-7, 24-27, 44-47 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claims 3 and 4 into independent claim 1, thus rewriting claim 4 in independent form. Similarly, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claims 23 and 24 into independent claim 21 and the limitations of claims 43 and 44 into independent claim 41.

In addition, Applicant has incorporated identical limitations into independent claims 61-64. These claims have similar or identical limitations to claims 1, 21, and 41, and in most cases include additional features not recited in claims 1, 21, and 41.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 41-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant assumes that the Examiner is objecting to the “computer program product” language.

Applicant has amended claims 41-60 to recite a “computer-readable storage medium” rather than a “computer program product.” The specification discloses personal computers, as well one or more storage devices, such as “a magnetic storage device (such as a hard disk drive), an optical storage device (such a CD-RW, DVD-RAM, etc.), or a random access memory (RAM).” Specification at pages 6 and 18. Volatile and non-volatile storage, including hard disk drives and RAM memories, inherently include a medium, such as a magnetic medium, and are inherently “readable” by a computer. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 41-60, as amended, are fully supported by the specification.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims represent patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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